The New Schools Project will partner with these districts to provide grants and other supports to assist the local teams in planning for a new school. Other support services include: 1) the assignment of a skilled and highly trained coach to assist each team; 2) enrollment in a newly created Health Sciences Learning Network to share practices and provide training for teachers; and 3) access to model small schools across the country.

"These grants provide the incentive for new innovative approaches to high school," said Easley. "Through this initiative we can provide high schools that better meet the needs of our young people and increase the graduation rate and the college-going rate. That is good for our children and that is good for North Carolina."

The next round of funding from the New Schools Project will focus on middle college and early college high schools in partnerships with the community colleges and public and private colleges and universities. This round will begin in the spring of 2004.

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